

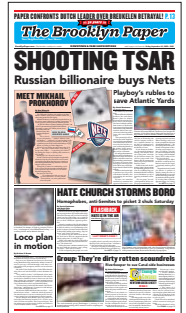
1978 30 years 2008

The Brooklyn Paper

Your Neighborhood — Your News®

BrooklynPaper.com • (718) 260-2500 • Brooklyn, NY • ©2009 DOWNTOWN, PARK SLOPE & BAY RIDGE EDITIONS AWP/12 pages • Vol. 32, No. 51 • Friday, December 25, 2009 • FREE

MAKING HEADLINES IN 2009



What a newsworthy year!

The Paper looks back at the big stories of the not-so-great 2009

To some, it was the worst year in decades. To others, it was merely horrible. But for us at The Brooklyn Paper, 2009 will go down in history as another 12-month period when lots of interesting, important, newsworthy, exciting, traumatic and Atlantic Yards things happened.

Here's our gimlet-eyed view on the year that was:

JANUARY

Better than Luger? The century-old king of steaks, Peter Luger, is dethroned when The Brooklyn Paper officially pronounces that its quality has slipped — allowing newcomer Morton's The Steakhouse to eclipse the legend. Luger's "meat pillow" is juicy, but the steak itself — though still often hailed as the best in the borough — is not beefy enough for our critic's palate.

Porn again: Hijackers take over a Web site created by Coney Island landowner Joe Sitt — and suddenly www.thefutureofconeyisland.com is an X-rated pornography page. Webmaster Davina Cukier denies involvement and tries to sell the site, which now has nothing on it, smut or otherwise. But better news was in store later in the year, when the city buys Sitt's beachfront land in hopes of building its own amusement Xanadu. By the end of the year, the inevitable lawsuit was filed, but the city says it will pick an interim theme park operator in January.

'Parking' problem: The price tag for Brooklyn Bridge Park skyrockets to almost \$350 million from its original \$150 million budget from 2002. Development officials are also forced to admit that their controversial source of revenue for maintenance — 800 units of luxury housing inside the park, plus a hotel, too — are off the

table because of the downturn in the economy.

Nude bomb: Our editor raises the bar — and some eyebrows — when he poses nude in a drawing class, prompting what remains the most-watched video in the history of BrooklynPaper.com.

FEBRUARY

Big splash: Despite the downturn, city officials announce that they've lined up the cash to turn the defunct McCarren Park Pool back from a concert venue into a public pool. Mayor Bloomberg finally breaks ground on the \$50-million restoration project in early December, and promises a finished product by 2012. We'll be waiting.

Obama falls flat: Six-point Craft Ales, the Red Hook brewery whose "Hop Obama" ale may have at least swayed the drunken vote in favor of our new president, is ordered by federal agents to stop brewing on the grounds that the brew house didn't have permission to use the then-candidate's likeness.

A new Miss Brooklyn: Keelie Sheridan, the 22-year-old pride of Manhattan Beach, shot for the stars with an Irish jig, a last-minute put routine and a smokin' swimsuit contest before she is handed the tiara at the 2009 Miss Brooklyn contest. But unlike the previous year's winner, the legendary Leigh-Taylor Smith, Sheridan is defeated at the Miss New York contest. Smith, of course, almost won Miss America.

MARCH

RIP: Blogger Bob Guskind is discovered dead in his Park Slope home of an apparent drug overdose. The creator of the Gowanus Lounge Web site was an affable neighbor and a well-respected journalist.

Superfund me: The Toll Brothers' controversial mixed-income housing project on the Gowanus Canal is discreetly ap-



JUNE: Bruce Ratner fired Frank Gehry from his Atlantic Yards project and released this design. The look is greeted with derision, and replaced in September.



APRIL: Historian David McCullough opposed the Dock Street project in the name of the Brooklyn Bridge.

proved by the Department of City Planning, but the project runs into a speed bump when the federal government shows up with a proposal to list the canal as a Superfund site. Now the Toll Brothers are waiting as the feds and city battle it out.

Big Sky: The highest-priced apartment in the tallest Brooklyn building goes on sale for a measly \$6 million. The Manhattan-style luxury apartment at the "Clocktower Residences" has views on all sides of the city, and 3,000-square-foot terraces. But by the end of the year,

\$6 million seemed like a bargain, when DUMBO developer David Walentas puts his \$25-million apartment at 1 Main St. on the market in October, giving way to competition and arguably one of our greatest headlines ever: "Clock tease!"

Rupert can't resist: Brooklyn Paper Publisher Ed Weintrob announces that the (awesome) weekly he founded in 1978 has been sold to the Rupert Murdoch-led News Corporation and would relocate from DUMBO to Metrotech. Nine months later and we're still going strong, as our September awards sweep in Chicago revealed.

Hairy situation: Steve "Leon" Lutz wins the borough's Beard and Moustache Championship, despite the facial hair mogul's recent run-in with fire days before the contest. That's a true champion.



WINNERS: Mike Bloomberg won a surprisingly close mayoral race. Joey Chestnut was the Coney Island champion in July.

two more times, and now it's slated for a mid-January opening.

Homeless congregation: Members of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church allege that the Metropolitan New York Synod seized their place of worship. The heavenly battle is still being waged in civil court, and the governing body of the church in Boerum Hill finally speaks out this month against its opposition.

Au revoir: Patois, the pioneering Smith Street bistro, closes after 11 years in the business. When it opened, the strip's gentrification began in earnest.

MAY **G-whiz:** While construction continues on the elevated portion of the F train, the G train is extended to Church Avenue. The new "Brooklyn Local" allows Park Skippers to go to Greenpoint without transferring. In an editorial, The Brooklyn Paper admonishes its readers to "use it or lose it," be-



SEPTEMBER: A hate group from Kansas targeted the borough. They were vastly outnumbered.

cause once the construction is completed, it is expected that the MTA will once again terminate the G at Smith-Ninth street — unless massive ridership can be documented.

Principal peeved: PS 20's controversial principal allegedly assaults a teacher's union representative, bringing an abrupt end to his allegedly rage-filled tenure. The union rep, who is also a kindergarten teacher, is reportedly on the receiving of kicks and punches from the allegedly loco headmaster, Sean Keaton, who lashes out during a meeting regarding oh this is too perfect, discipline.

JUNE

Gehry canned: Whatever year opinion about Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards, most people liked architect Frank Gehry's original, ambitious design. So there were howls when Ratner fires Gehry to supposedly save money. Opponents to the mega-project pile on after the announcement, saying that the scaled-down arena is proof of the developer's financial instability. Later in the year, Ratner releases a new arena rendering that either looked like the future of American architecture or a George Foreman grill, depending on whom you asked. Ratner would end the year with a spate of good news, including a couple of big court wins, a deal with a Russian billionaire to buy 80 percent of his money-losing Nets, and a slam dunk sale of hundreds of millions in bonds that will pay for construction of the arena.

F marks the spot: With complaints about the F train mounting, the MTA finally agrees to conduct

a study of what everyone knows. Months later, the report is issued. Guess what? The F train is bad.

JULY

Weiner feast: Joey "Jaws" Chestnut smashes the world-record in the Coney Island hot-dog-eating contest, retaining the Mustard Yellow International Belt for the good of U.S. of A for another year. Chestnut consumes a whopping 68 hot dogs and buns, compared to 64-1/2 by the weiner-eating legend from the land of the rising bun, Takeru Kobayashi. For his part, Kobayashi pledges to return stronger than ever for next year's contest, though insiders say he's cooked.

Meadows of shame: Lazy bums are leaving trash all over Prospect Park — but no one is worse than MIH Ventures, which holds its annual "Heatwave" event without giving any warning to park officials that they expected tens of thousands of revelers. Prospect Park initially says it will seek repayment from the event organizers, but eventually accepts an apology and a promise to volunteer in a future clean-up.

AUGUST

Dustup: Red Hook residents aren't too welcoming when a company announces it will open a concrete plant next to the Ikea and across from a local farm. Locals say that the factory would release dust, but US Concrete saw the location as perfect given its proximity to the Battery Tunnel and the Gowanus Express-

See 2009 on page 4

Resolution No.1:
get in shape for my other resolutions

Solution:
Holiday Membership for only \$25 per Week

320,000 square feet of state-of-the-art facilities including: swimming, squash, racquetball, fencing, martial arts, volleyball, and boxing, with classes, weights, and endurance equipment to condition for these sports, plus saunas, steamrooms, and spa.

Offer ends December 31, 2009

EASTERN ATHLETIC | BROOKLYN HEIGHTS 45 CLARK STREET 718 625-0500
PROSPECT PARK 17 EASTERN PARKWAY 718 789-4600
TRIBECA 80 LEONARD STREET 212 966-5432

MEMBERSHIP TERM FROM DATE OF JOINING THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2010. DUES FOR FULL TERM OF MEMBERSHIP TO BE PAID IN ADVANCE.
NOT ALL FACILITIES AT ALL LOCATIONS.

Join our

WINE TASTINGS at Red White & Bubbly

WEDNESDAY, DEC 30TH, 6-9PM
Frederick Wildman wines

THURSDAY, DEC 31ST, 6-9PM
Pol Roger Champagne Tasting. We will feature Pol Roger NV, Pol Roger Rich, and Pol Roger Pure

Red White & Bubbly wishes all our friends & neighbors a happy & healthy new year!

211 Fifth Avenue
(between Union & President)
Park Slope
(718) 636-9463
www.redwhiteandbubbly.com
Open Mon-Sat: 10am-10pm,
Sun: 12pm-8pm

Why not call it the 'OyPhone'?

Brazen thieves are now picking Apples right out of people's hands!

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

She never saw it coming — but now she's sounding the alarm.

Park Slope's Alex Beers became the latest victim of a new breed of criminal — the silent iPhone thief — when a bike-riding bandit snatched the popular Apple device right out of her hand as she was talking on it.

But now the mother of two, whose iPhone was stolen on Dec. 14 on St. Johns Place in Park Slope, has gone public to educate the public about this growing threat.

"People need to know that when they're on their phone, they simply won't know if



DRAMATIZING: Alex Beers' husband shows how a thief grabbed the iPhone right out of her hand on St. Johns Place between Seventh and Eighth avenues.

they are about to be robbed," she said. "In my case, I never heard a thing."

Beers told The Brooklyn Paper that she was talking on

her iPhone as she walked on the block between Seventh and Eighth avenues at around 1:30 pm. Beers' conversation with her mom so engrossed

her that even in the afternoon quiet of a brownstone Brooklyn block, she did not hear the sound of a thief on a bicycle gliding slowly towards

her. Within seconds, the bright and had approached, roughly grabbed the phone from her hand, and pedaled away —

and he was long gone before Beers could even fully understand what had just happened. "At first, I thought some-

thing had fallen from a tree and hit me," she said. "My glasses fell off from the force of him grabbing the phone. The impact was very rough

because he was going so fast."

"But the main problem was that I was on the phone in the first place," she said.

The NYPD does not keep specific stats about iPhone thefts because property such as a phone or the contents of a backpack are all lumped in together in data about muggings. But The Brooklyn Paper's popular Police Blotter shows that Beers is one of an increasing number of phone owners who have learned the painful truth that the only way to protect their mobile phone is to not use the phone while they're mobile.

The blotter is filled virtually every week with crimes quite similar to the one perpetrated on Beers.

• Dec. 20: A thief on a bicycle snatched a woman's phone near the corner of Garden Place and Leroy Street.

• Dec. 8: Thugs choked See **PHONE** on page 9

Those Atlantic malls are real crime dens

88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene-Clinton Hill

Once again, the Atlantic Terminal Mall was a den of iniquity during the Christmas rush. Here's a roundup of all that went wrong:

• The crime wave started outside the mall at 8 pm on Dec. 14, when an unruly mob attacked a woman waiting for the bus in front of Pathmark. The victim said the gang went wild, pushing and shoving her, allowing a thief to take her wallet. It contained \$250 and credit cards.

• The next day, a Christmas shopper at Target tried to walk out without paying for any of her gifts. It turns out that the shoplifter was an employee at the space discount emporium who was just getting off her shift at 7:30 pm, cops said. She tried to get away with something for everyone — \$1,167 worth of goods that included toys, makeup, DVDs and baby clothes.

• A pickpocket found a victim at Duffy's on Dec. 18. The victim told cops that she was shopping at around 3:45 pm, but later realized that a thief had reached into her pocket and taken her wallet, which contained \$100 and a \$150 gift card.

Stocking stuffer

One 12-year-old is asking Santa for a new Sadek, after a Grinch grabbed her on the corner of Lafayette Avenue and Carlton Street on Dec. 15.

The grabbing teen told cops that she was walking to school at 8:15 am when the thug came up behind her and grabbed the phone.

Silent day

As stealthy as Santa Claus, a thief got in and out of an apartment on Lafayette Street on Dec. 15 without so much as displacing a poinsettia.

The victim was at work between 9 am and 5 pm. That's when a crook sneaked into her apartment, located near Walker Street, and got her Mac laptop.

Sabrina Jozsi

76TH PRECINCT

Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill-Red Hook

Ice-rea

At least two shoppers at Ikea were robbed in separate incidents at the Beard Street behemoth last week.

• A woman who left her purse and other items in the bathroom at around 6:30 pm on Dec. 14 returned to find that \$700 and various cards had been taken.

• Three days later, a thief stole the wallet of a woman who was enjoying a snack at the furniture store's bed-and-bath cafe. The victim told cops that she noticed the 1 pm thief when she went to make a purchase. She lost \$100 and a \$200 gift card.

Stone cold

Two perps mugged a woman on Garnet Street early on Dec. 14, getting her fancy bag.

The victim told cops that she was between Smith and Court streets at around 4:15 am when two thugs came over, and one said, "Give me your car keys."

The woman turned over a John Weir bag, which contained \$105 and various cards.

POLICE BLOTTER

Find more online every Wednesday at BrooklynPaper.com/blotter

Shoplifted

A brutal, gun-loving shoplifter was arrested after robbing two CVS employees on Dec. 15, tossing them aside like rag dolls when they tried to stop his escape.

The employees told cops that they noticed the thief stocking up on gum at around 4:30 pm inside the store, which is between First and Second places. When one

employee tried to delay the thief's departure, the thug pushed him into a battery display. A second employee was also thrown down. Cops offered few details, but a 39-year-old was later arrested, still carrying 29 packs of gum worth a whopping \$150, police said.

Found murdered

Cops are hunting for a killer who gunned down a 29-year-old drummer in his Fourth Street apartment on Dec. 11.

Cops discovered the body of Troy Young in a basement apartment between Smith and Hoyt streets after a friend reported that he had not heard from the musician for a few days.

Hex president

A thief broke into a President's Street apartment during the day on Dec. 16, getting away with more than just spare change.

The couple that lives in the apartment, which is between Smith and Hoyt streets, told cops that neither the husband nor wife was home between 11 am and 6:20 pm, when the wife returned to find that a thief had broken in and taken a glass jar filled with \$500 in change, a gold bracelet with a "K" engraved into it, and \$400.

Quick pick

A thief picked a wallet out of a woman's jacket at Hanley's after late in the wee hours last week.

Two on one

Police are looking for two thugs responsible for bullying a 26-year-old man out of his wallet on Clinton Street on Dec. 9.

The victim said that he was nearing First Place at 8:15 pm when the two suspects ran up to him and demanded his wallet.

"Give it to me or we'll punch you," one member of the duo threatened. Surrounded, the victim did what he was told and handed over cash, a MetroCard and a credit card.

Shed raid

Thieves broke into a Conover Street photography studio overnight on Dec. 8, taking \$7,400 worth of pricey camera equipment.

The victim told cops that someone broke into a backyard shed sometime after 11:30 pm, though he was uncertain how the thief entered the shed, which is protected by both a wooden and a metal fence.

Grinch

Holiday spotters were pussy-footing into homes and

man handed over everything in his pockets — his wallet, phone and keys — but these bandits weren't done yet.

"What building do you live in?" said one member of the duo.

90TH PRECINCT

Williamsburg-Bushwick

Clean team

Three vlad guys — one with a gun — mugged a man as he walked to a Landmark on Dec. 15, and then forced him back to his Stage Street home, where they took even more stuff.

The victim told cops that he was near his apartment, which is near Bushwick Avenue, at around 9:30 pm when the thieves approached.

"Give me your money," said the one with the gun. The

CRASH! Speeding car mows down another on Van Brunt

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

That was one pretty serious-looking accident at the troubled corner of Van Brunt Street and Dikeman Street in the heart of Red Hook on Friday afternoon.

But cops say that no one was injured in the three-car crash around midday on the neighborhood's busy 500 main drag.

"I saw the whole thing," said one witness. "This car was going like 50 and he hit a truck, which hit another car."

Police say that the villainous driver was speeding southbound on Van Brunt Street when he collided with a westbound car on Dikeman Street that had just moved through the controversial stop sign.

One of the cars ended up careening right into a storefront window, which is where our shutterbug Tom Callan found it just a few minutes later.

In the past, neighbors have called for a traffic light at that corner.



The Brooklyn Paper's Tom Callan.

businesses — not to put residents under the tree, but to take them away. Here's a roundup:

• A thief tried to steal four space heaters from a Haver Street apartment unlocked when she went out to the store at 12:30 pm on Dec. 20. She returned to her apartment, which is near S. First Street, an hour later to find that the burglar had taken two laptops, her passport, a cellphone, credit cards, \$90 and a \$350 fountain pen.

Lump of stole

Two children received lumps of coal in their stockings this week — and so did See **BLITTER** on page 10

2009-IN-REVIEW...

Continued from page 2

Waterworld:

It conjured images of a post-apocalyptic wasteland — a huge marine for life at sea, complete with a sustainable garden and chicken coop. The "Waterworld," as it was known, is a statement about global warming, but creator Mary Mattingly wasn't done there. She has begun construction on an "Air Ship, Air City," a bizarre house built on top of a building. Downtown. It also has chickens.

SEPTEMBER

Rest in peace:

The borough is wracked by the death of Ayvee's son, Akutsumu, who succumbs to pneumonia at the New York Aquarium at age two. His dad, who became an international legend thanks

to his habit of masturbating by slipping up against the tank glass, inches away from stunned onlookers, had died a year earlier. Akutsumu, it turns out, was too young to follow in his father's fims in that regard, giving his already grief-stricken mourners even more reason for sadness.

Never again:

Our editor's bike is stolen for the third time in 15 months, bringing in a new verb into common use: "to be gerashed."

Prospect Park wrest:

Park Slope mommy Amy Sohn puts out a book about Park Slope mommies which makes her the toast of the Park Slope mommies — until the inevitable backlash from Park Slope mommies who resented her depiction of Park Slope mommies. The hysteria dies down a month later when Park

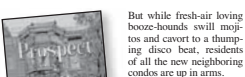
But while fresh-air loving booze-bounds wild mojos and covert to a dumping disco band, residents of all the new neighboring condos are up in arms.

Discomfited:

The makers of "Southern Comfort" lie-queer fail to live up to their name by sending a cease-and-desist letter to a bunch of Bay Ridge residents called "The Southern Comfort Band." Not to pick sides, but what else are you going to call a band that plays the Allman Brothers, the Outlaws and Lynyrd Skynyrd? (Well, you won't call them cutting-edge.)

Primary matters:

Two free-for-all City Council elections in the heart of our coverage area end up not being particularly successful after all. Brad Lander trounces four opponents in the Park Slope



Slope daddy Jonathan Saffin Fort puts out a book "decrying humanity's consumption of animals for food, giving all the Park Slope mommies something else over which to obsess."

Vue to a kill:

Is there any bigger news in the drinking community than the opening of the long-awaited rooftop bar at Hotel LeVeau on Fourth Avenue?

It's the economy, stupid:

A new report reveals that the borough has lost jobs and its unemployment rate is up. A week later, the owners of the On Ono condiment a 25-percent price cut. Just a coincidence?

Bling fling:

The chairman of Community Board 2 complains that the city failed to put enough spurs in the new sidewalk on Fulton Mall. The city retorts that it should wait until enough people have walked on the sidewalk, which it will be suitably scuffed up.

DECEMBER:

Guerilla bike lane painters struck on Bedford Avenue, the latest in a long line of bike-related skirmishes in Williamsburg.

NOVEMBER

Third timer:

Mayor Bloomberg wins a third term — but not any major help from Brooklyn, which handed challenger Bill Thompson 50 percent of the vote to Bloomberg's 46. Borough President Markowitz romped to a third term with 85 percent of the vote.

Billions-dollar bash:

State officials reveal that the new Kosciuszko Bridge will cost \$1 billion, though Gov. Paterson grumbles that we probably don't have the money to replace a bridge whose parts keep falling off.

Fresh man:

Rep. Mike McMahon says he supports health care reform, yet votes against the House health care reform bill. He says he wants it cheaper and better. Look, we all do, but can we fix the country's health care problems before our 21-year-old reporter qualifies for Medicare?

It's all about us:

The Brooklyn Paper celebrates its 30th anniversary — just in time for its 32nd anniversary (OK, so we're not always punctual). The commemorative edition — the biggest in our history — quickly becomes a collector's item all over Brooklyn.

Labor pains:

State Department of Labor inspectors swoop down on 25

Personal Problems? Need Help?

We hope that we can help you to create and enjoy a better quality of life!

Blanton-Peale Community Counseling Center

Offering service since 1937

Affordable Psychotherapy: Licensed professionals

75 Hicks Street, Brooklyn Heights

Neor 2, 3 and 4 trains

718-237-3078

www.blantonpeale.org

Over 20 Years of Strong Efficiency and Courteous Reputation

Base Lic. # B01363

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

We Welcome Corporate Accounts

Se Habla Español

Myrtle Car & Limo Service

718-230-8100

www.myrtlecarservice.com

24 HOUR SERVICE TO ALL AIRPORTS

• Small Package Delivery • Local And Long Distance Service

• Serving The 5 Boros And Beyond • Call To Reserve Long Trips

WE ACCEPT ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS

\$2.00 OFF* Any Ride \$25 or More

\$3.00 OFF* To Any New York Airport

Coupon not valid for credit card sales. Rates subject to change. Please call for validation code. *Not to be combined with any other offers.



(718) 260-2550

The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

December 25, 2009



Cheapie New Year

Keep this resolution: New Year's Eve sticks to budget

By Andy Campbell
The Brooklyn Paper

It's New Year's Eve and you know the drill: Fork over \$100 for a couple of drinks, two wilted hors-d'oeuvres, and a grim resolution to not spend a dime until your next paycheck. But it doesn't have to be that way.

Our resolution in these trying times is to party hard (certainly), but keep the green in our pockets. That's why our crack GO Brooklyn team has whipped up a list of year-end blowouts that'll keep you out all night, and save your checking account from shutting your inevitable hangover.

No cover, no problem

It's a grab bag of freedom at Water Street Restaurant and Lounge's annual "Procrastinator's Ball": a glass of champagne toast, noisemakers, a live DJ, big-screen TV coverage of the ball drop in Times Square and dessert—all for free. Owner Jeffrey Rodman (best known for his burgers and his ping-pong prowess) doesn't even jack up the prices at an annual dance party that is so rocking that you'll probably break more resolutions than you make.

We're gonna pack the place out—and the prices on the menu won't change for the occasion, either," said Rodman.

Reservations are requested, but it's called the "Procrastinator's Ball" for a reason. Come as you are.

Water Street Restaurant and Lounge 166 Water St. between Dock and Main streets in DUMBO. (718) 625-9252. For info, visit waterstreetrestaurant.com.

Screw balls

It might as well be Pete Townshend smashing his Gibson right before your eyes as

the clock strikes midnight—except that it won't be a guitar, but a ukulele.

And the borough's own Sonic Uke will perform rather than The Who.

Oh, and the stage is actually a brownstone stoop, not a stadium.

But who cares? The sixth annual Ukulele Drop in the South Slope will start with the traditional "ukulele drop" 15 minutes before midnight, followed by the semi-acoustic rock show of the year—free. It's BYOB on this one, but the bodged-down street isn't raising its prices for the night (not that we could public drinking at all, mind you).

Ukulele Drop in front of 321 23rd St. between Sixth and Seventh avenues. (646) 257-3747. Show up at 11:45 pm. For info, visit sonicuke.com.

Free fireworks

The self-proclaimed "biggest party in Brooklyn" kicks off at midnight at the Grand Army Plaza, where you'll be bombarded with musical guests, hot (low-priced) refreshments and a dazzling fireworks display. Yes, the explosions are expensive—but for the main sponsor, Borough President Markovitz—but for you it's all free.

The fun starts at 11 pm.

The best vantage points are in Grand Army Plaza at the top part of Prospect Park West.

New Year's Eve fireworks in Grand Army Plaza (Union Street between Prospect Park West and Flatbush Avenue. (718) 965-8999.

Sideshow savings

What do you get when you invite glass-cutting, fire-breathing, snake-charming freaks to a no-cover party on the last night of 2009? The Coney Island Circus Sideshow with keister-kicking musical guest



Bad Buks, that's what.

See how even the freaks get freaky when they converge at Radegast Hall in Williamsburg, and feel good knowing you won't have to pay a dime. Throw in a free beer with every \$5 half-liter beer and you've got yourself a full-on horror flick—with carnies!

Coney Island Circus Sideshow at Radegast Hall and Biergarten (113 N. Third St. between Wythe Avenue and Berry Street in Williamsburg. (718) 963-3973. Music starts at 10 pm. For info, visit www.radegasthall.com.

spinning funk, soul, disco and hip hop throughout the night.

There's no dress code, but organizers promise each packed house that you should be prepared to "lose your s---," hopefully a reference to the need to doff your duds rather than the work of wily thieves.

Warehouse dance party at the Old American Can Factory (232 Third St. between Third and Fourth avenues, (212) 943-2400. Show starts at 9 pm.

Quit wining

Whether you're hosting a hoity-toity soiree or a midnight toast for two, your guests should at least be drunk enough to disregard the fact that you didn't throw a Benjamin at one bottle of bubbly. Here are five great bottles—from four great wine shops—at about \$15:

• **Luvvey y Camp (\$13.95 at Red, White & Bubbly):** Persistent, fine bubbles and a nice, dry finish makes this sparkling wine a raw deal with a glitzy taste. They'll never know.

• **Prosecco Blend Pink Sparkler (\$15 at Picada y Vino):** This rosy bottle boasts a flavorful blend—a slightly off-dry taste with hints of pear and banana candy notes.

• **Paul DeCoste (\$13 at Picada y Vino):** A sparkling wine that represents the quintessential blanc-de-blanc (that's 100 percent Chardonnay to you). The bubbly.

See **NEW** on page 7

Red, White & Bubbly (211 Fifth Ave. between Union and President streets in Park Slope, (718) 636-9463).

• **Prosecco Blend Pink Sparkler (\$15 at Picada y Vino):** This rosy bottle boasts a flavorful blend—a slightly off-dry taste with hints of pear and banana candy notes.

• **Paul DeCoste (\$13 at Picada y Vino):** A sparkling wine that represents the quintessential blanc-de-blanc (that's 100 percent Chardonnay to you). The bubbly.

See **NEW** on page 7

Red, White & Bubbly (211 Fifth Ave. between Union and President streets in Park Slope, (718) 636-9463).

• **Prosecco Blend Pink Sparkler (\$15 at Picada y Vino):** This rosy bottle boasts a flavorful blend—a slightly off-dry taste with hints of pear and banana candy notes.

• **Paul DeCoste (\$13 at Picada y Vino):** A sparkling wine that represents the quintessential blanc-de-blanc (that's 100 percent Chardonnay to you). The bubbly.

See **NEW** on page 7

Red, White & Bubbly (211 Fifth Ave. between Union and President streets in Park Slope, (718) 636-9463).

• **Prosecco Blend Pink Sparkler (\$15 at Picada y Vino):** This rosy bottle boasts a flavorful blend—a slightly off-dry taste with hints of pear and banana candy notes.

• **Paul DeCoste (\$13 at Picada y Vino):** A sparkling wine that represents the quintessential blanc-de-blanc (that's 100 percent Chardonnay to you). The bubbly.

See **NEW** on page 7

Red, White & Bubbly (211 Fifth Ave. between Union and President streets in Park Slope, (718) 636-9463).

• **Prosecco Blend Pink Sparkler (\$15 at Picada y Vino):** This rosy bottle boasts a flavorful blend—a slightly off-dry taste with hints of pear and banana candy notes.

• **Paul DeCoste (\$13 at Picada y Vino):** A sparkling wine that represents the quintessential blanc-de-blanc (that's 100 percent Chardonnay to you). The bubbly.

THEATER

Not so 'Brief'

"Brief Encounter," the modern mashup of David Lean's 1945 film of the same name and Noel Coward's play, "Still Life," has added 16 performances to its schedule, extending the production through Jan. 17.

The show is so beautiful, and the response has been so joyful that we're keeping it here for two weeks longer than planned," said St. Ann's Warehouse Artistic Director Susan Feldman. "We know people are busy with the holidays, so we want to give as many people the chance to see 'Brief Encounter' as we can."

The play, a knockout combination of whimsy and romance, propelled the show through successful runs in London and San Francisco before it landed in December in DUMBO.

Directed by "self-proclaimed love addict" Emma Rice, this mix of screen, stage and song gives "Brief Encounter" a new twist on old romance, weaving a tale of love and infidelity that shines through its innovative presentation.

The show is an all-encompassing, multi-media live experience that features the film as a backdrop to its dancing and singing performance.

"It's rare to find a show with an edge, universal appeal, and outstanding stagecraft," added Feldman.

"Brief Encounter" at St. Ann's Warehouse (38 Water St. between Main and Dock streets in DUMBO, (718) 254-8779). — **Barry Shifrin**

MUSIC

Dar's back

Along with the Christmas trees hawked on street corners, decorations on main drags and competing versions of "The Nutcracker," a new holiday tradition is a post-Christmas show at Southpaw from Dar Williams.

This year, the indie singer's third annual Park Slope gig is set for Dec. 27—and the country-tinged songstress will focus mostly on tunes from her last release, "Promised Land."

"December is an extremely fun time to get out," said Williams. "People are swimming through egg nog and are a little more convivial. My [Brooklyn audience] will be happy to get out from under the pressures and the self-aggrandizement of the holidays."

"Or they could just be escaping their families," she added.

Dar Williams at Southpaw (125 Fifth Ave. near St. Johns Place in Park Slope, (718) 230-0284. Dec. 27 8 pm. Tickets, \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. — **Meredith Deliso**

DINING

Hook for wine

Buying local is all the rage in Brooklyn, but the enthusiasm has yet to extend to wines. But that's about to change now that the Red Hook Winery is selling its first vintage.

Napa Valley vintners Bob Foley and Abe Schoener are in charge of the elaborate, expensive process of making the wines, and each brings a distinct style to the products (Foley likes a bold fruity taste up front, while Schoener goes for a subtle, spicy, sophisticated nose).

For now, bottles of Red Hook Winery white, rose and red can only be purchased at the Brooklyn Wine Exchange on Court Street—and even restaurateurs are snapping up the bottles faster than Jake Barnes on a bender.

"The feedback we're getting is great," said Mark Snyder (pictured), the winery's owner, who handles day-to-day activities at the Van Dyke Street plant.

"This is not intended as a big business," he said. "We want to ignite interest and grow slowly and organically."

Red Hook Wines are available at The Brooklyn Wine Exchange (138 Court St. between Atlantic and Pacific streets, (718) 855-9463) and at Henry's End (44 Henry St. at Cranberry Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 834-1776) and HomeMade (293 Van Brunt St. at Pioneer Street in Red Hook, (347) 223-4135).

— **Stephen Brown**

Red Hook Winery (138 Court St. between Atlantic and Pacific streets, (718) 855-9463) and at Henry's End (44 Henry St. at Cranberry Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 834-1776) and HomeMade (293 Van Brunt St. at Pioneer Street in Red Hook, (347) 223-4135).

— **Stephen Brown**

No. 1

FRONT STREET

PRESENTS

Brooklyn's Best Friday Social

Starting at 6pm

Complimentary appetizers, 6pm-8pm

Infused martini madness all night, \$5 special

Half-priced beer all night

Music by DJ spinning the favorites

NO. 1 FRONT STREET

is located on the corner of
Old Fulton Street & Front Street

718.625.0300

The Mac Support Store

Brooklyn's First Apple Authorized Repair Shop!

- Mac and iPod Repair
- Brand New Macs in Stock
- Mac Rentals and Loaners
- No Fee Mac Data Recovery
- Memory & Hard Drive Upgrades
- On-site Calls

No Appointment Necessary

168 7th Street and 3rd Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11215

718-312-8341

9-6 weekdays, 10-4 Saturday

support@macsupportstore.com

www.macsupportstore.com

Eat TURKISH at

Taze Restaurant

- Enjoy Mediterranean, Ottoman and Turkish Culture and Cuisine in Brooklyn Heights
- Lunch starting at \$5.50
- Three Course Lunch Special \$12.99 with free glass of wine or dessert*
- 15% discount for dinner Mon-Thurs*
- Outdoor Garden Dining
- Corporate Accounts and Catering
- Free Delivery

*Must bring in or mention this ad

142 Montague St., 2nd Fl.
(bet. Clinton & Henry)
Brooklyn Heights
(718) 875-2211

Serving lunch & dinner 7 days

BONNIE'S Grill

Hot & Spicy!

Regional American Cuisine

278 FIFTH AVENUE, BROOKLYN

718.369.9527

CELEBRATE NEW YEARS EVE

with a Sumptuous Four-Course Dinner at

MARCO POLO

Ristorante

In our Elegant Private Upstairs Banquet Room

Thursday, December 31, 2009 8:30 pm to 2 am
Champagne at Midnight • Open Bar All Night, Coffee
Live DJ, Hats & Noise Makers

\$125 per person (all inclusive) • \$60 per child under 12 years

We are also offering a special Christmas Eve
& New Years Eve Ala Carte Menu



345 Court Street

(Corner of Union) Brooklyn, NY 11231

Make Reservations Early!

Call Now (718) 852-5015

Free Valet Parking

All Major Credit Cards Accepted

Visit us on the web at

www.MarcoPoloRistorante.com

CHICKEN MEET WINE



DISCOVER the art of PAIRING



Picad y Vino Wine Shop
327 Fifth Avenue • Brooklyn, NY 11215
718-499-2392 • picadavinovino.com

shop & dine ATLANTIC AVENUE

ATLANTICAVENUEBKNY.ORG

The art presented by Atlanta Avenue Association (AAA)



VOTED BY NEW YORK MAGAZINE AS ONE OF THE "BEST DOCTORS" IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK

Request a Gift of Beauty

- BOTOX/DYSPOPT
- FACIAL FILLERS
- SPIDER VEINS
- LASER HAIR REMOVAL
- CHEMICAL PEELS
- MICRODERMABRASION

BEST Doctors

COSMETIC & LASER CENTER OF BAY RIDGE

DAVID E. BIRO, M.D., Ph.D.

9921 4th Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11209
718-833-2793
www.BayRidgeDerm.com

Anti-Aging Products
MD FORTIS
Gift Certificates Available

SATURDAY
December 26



Saucy salsa

Pick up the post-Christmas lull with a little Cuban salsa at BAM Café. Featuring an all-star world music ensemble, Brooklyn's Charanga Soleil will be jamming with a mix of Cuban, Congolese and Haitian music that's sure to get you moving. Bar opens at 8 pm, so you can light up the dance floor at 9.

9 pm. Charanga Soleil at BAM Café 301 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 230-4100. Free. For info, visit www.bam.org.

TUESDAY
December 29

Pop some bubbly

The last thing you want to do is go into New Year's with cheap Champagne. So preview your New Year's Eve bubbly with a tasting at The Greene Grape. With real Champagne from France and an array of "sparkling wines" from the U.S. and Spain, you'll have 11 chances to help envision your perfect countdown.

5-7 pm. Sparkling wine tasting at The Greene Grape 785 Fulton St. between S. Oxford and S. Portland streets in Fort Greene, (977) 412-5901. Free. For info, visit brooklyn.greengrape.com.



WEDNESDAY
December 30



Banjo-kazooie

We always enjoy the weekly "Roots and Ruckus" American music jamboree at Jalopy every Wednesday. But this week's show, led by the always interesting Feral Foster, will pay special homage to the kazoo with folk, blues, and old-time music guaranteed to get your toe tapping in rhythm. BYO washboard.

9 pm. Roots and Ruckus at Jalopy 215 Columbia St. between Hamilton and Woodhull in Cobble Hill, (718) 395-3244. \$5. For info, visit www.jalopy.biz.

THURSDAY
December 31

At last, a new year!

Finally, we get to bid farewell to 2009—the year of the economic malaise, the health care debacle, another late-season collapse by the Cyclones and too many other disasters to list here. Let's drum this lousy year out with one last (low cost) party: Borough President Markowitz's free (but cold) fireworks in Grand Army Plaza.

New Year's Eve fireworks in Grand Army Plaza (Union Street between Prospect Park West and Flatbush Avenue, (718) 965-8999).



FRIDAY
January 1



Resolve to be funnier

Got all your resolutions made? Then hit up the Brooklyn Yceum for some more jokes. Improv troupe Sidecar and its female counterparts M.A.D. will host their first "Gentrify Brooklyn!" show of the year. Don't worry, the comics are in on the joke (they all live in Brooklyn anyway).

10 pm. "Gentrify Brooklyn!" at the Brooklyn Yceum 1227 Fourth Ave. between Union and President streets in Park Slope, (718) 857-4816. Tickets, \$5.

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

SAT. DEC. 26

OUTDOORS AND TOURS
TOUR, BROOKLYN BRIDGE AND HEIGHTS WALKING TOUR: Including stops at Plymouth Church, the A.A. Low Memorial, and sites associated with Norman Mailer, Robert Moses and Arthur Miller. \$15 (\$12 students and seniors). 1 pm. Meet at City Hall Park (Broadway and Chambers Street in Manhattan, 212 439-1060). www.brooklyn.com.

PERFORMANCE
MUSIC, JAMES CLARK & COMPANY: 56. Noon-3 pm. Puppet's Jazz Bar 1481 Fifth Ave. at 11th Street in Park Slope, (718) 499-2622. www.puppets.com.

MUSIC, ROBERTO TYSON TRIO: 56. 6 pm-8:30 pm. Puppet's Jazz Bar (see venue info above).

THEATER, "BRIEF ENCOUNTER": Multi-media theater piece based on the famous David Lean's famous film. \$37-\$80. 2 and 8 pm. St. Ann's Warehouse 138 Water St. at Dock Street in DUMBO, (718) 254-0779. www.stannwarehouse.org.

SALES AND MARKETS
PARK SLOPE GREENMARKET: Brooklyn's answer to Union Square. 9 am-4 pm. Grand Army Plaza (Union Street between 4th and 5th Aves. in Park Slope, (212) 788-7900). www.parkslopegreenmarket.com.

PS 321 FLEA MARKET: Free. 9 am-5 pm. PS 321 schoolyard (Seventh Avenue and First Street in Park Slope), www.parkslopeflea.com.

ARTISTS AND FLEAS: Free. Noon-8 pm. Artists and Fleas 129 N. Sixth St. between Bedford Avenue and Berry Street in Williamsburg, www.artistsandfleas.com.

OTHER
ART, "WHO SHOT ROCK & ROLL": Great rock photographs from 1955 to the present. 10 am-5 pm. Brooklyn Museum 200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000. www.brooklynmuseum.org.

ART, "RECYCLED AND STITCHED ART" — THE ORDINARY BECOMES EXTRAORDINARY: Exhibition featuring stitched artwork by Margaret Cusack, zipper jewelry by Kate Cusack and more. (Quincy) 1663 Atlantic Ave. between Nevins Street and Third Avenue in Boerum Hill, (718) 855-7808.

ART EXHIBITS: Tracey Snellings installation "Woman on the Run" and Paul Britto's new video works in Society's Children. Smack Mellon 152 Plymouth St. at Washington Street in DUMBO, (718) 834-8761. www.smackmellon.org.

ART, "MULTIPLES AND EDITIONS": The Front Room Gallery 147 Roasting Street in Williamsburg, (718) 782-2550. www.frontroom.org.

EXHIBIT, "LAST DAY OF THE MYR-TLE AVENUE EL": See Saturday.



Night moves: Dean and Britta play Southpaw on New Year's Eve.

TLE AVENUE EL: Photos by Teresa King, who rode on the Myrtle Avenue El line until it was torn down in 1965. Free. 10 am-5 pm. NY Transit Museum 130 Livingston St. in Downtown, (718) 494-4915.

MUSIC, CAR STEREO WARS: A battle of the DJs. Free. 9 pm-2 am. The Bell House 149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510. www.thebellhouse.com.

SUN. DEC. 27
PERFORMANCE
THEATER, "BRIEF ENCOUNTER": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

MUSIC, DAR WILLIAMS: Indie songstress hosts her annual post-Christmas show. \$30 (\$25 in advance). 8 pm. Southpaw 125 Fifth Ave. at St. Johns Place in Park Slope, (718) 230-0236. www.southpaw.com.

CIVIC CALENDAR
SUN. DEC. 27
76th Precinct. Have your car, truck, bike or electronics checked for security purposes. Or make an appointment for other times. Free. 6-9 pm. 76th Precinct stationhouse. To list an event in the Civic Calendar, e-mail Calendar@bkglobal.com.

WED. DEC. 30
76th Precinct. See Sunday, Dec. 27.

WED. DEC. 30
76th Precinct. See Sunday, Dec. 27.



The Brooklyn Paper

Your Neighborhood — Your News™

Published weekly at
1 Metrotech Center North, Suite 1001, Brooklyn NY 11201 (718) 260-2500

PUBLISHER
Celia Weintraub (718) 260-4503

EDITOR
Gersh Kurtzman (718) 260-4504

SENIOR EDITOR/PROD MGR
Venice DiMichele (718) 260-4508

EDITORIAL STAFF

STAFF REPORTERS
Stephen Brown (718) 260-4505

Amy Campbell (718) 260-4506

INTERNS
Bess Adler, Sabrina Jassi, Barry Sifilis

WEB DESIGNER
Sylvan Migdal (718) 260-4509

PUBLISHER EMERITUS Ed Weintraub

ART DIRECTOR
Leah Misch (718) 260-4510

WEB DESIGNER
Sylvan Migdal (718) 260-4509

HOW TO CONTACT THE PAPER
E-mail news and arts releases to newsroom@bkglobal.com
E-mail calendar listings to calendar@bkglobal.com
E-mail nightlife listings to nightlife@bkglobal.com
To e-mail a staff member, use first initial last name @bkglobal.com

Online at www.BrooklynPaper.com

The Brooklyn Paper's five zones incorporate the following newspapers:

DOWNTOWN ZONE
Brooklyn Heights Paper, Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill Paper, Downtown News, Fort Greene-Clinton Hill Paper.

FORT GREENE-CLINTON HILL ZONE
Park Slope Paper, Sunset Park Paper, Windsor Terrace Paper.

PARK SLOPE ZONE
Park Slope Paper, Sunset Park Paper, Windsor Terrace Paper.

NORTH BROOKLYN ZONE
Bushwick Paper, Greenpoint Paper, Williamsburg Paper.

BAY RIDGE ZONE
Bay Ridge Paper, Bensonhurst Paper.

© Copyright 2009 Courier Life, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Unauthorized subscriptions become the property of Courier Life, Inc. and may be used, copied, rebroadcast, adapted, transmitted, distributed, publicly performed, published, displayed or deleted at Courier Life, Inc. see it. Unless otherwise agreed in writing, Courier Life, Inc. will not give any compensation, credit or notice of its use of unauthorized subscriptions.





The Brooklyn Paper • Courtesy: Melissa Murphy

Sugar & spice

Melissa's gingery cake rings in the new year

By Melissa Murphy
for The Brooklyn Paper

I have loved gingerbread since I was a little girl, when I made it for my dad. I served warm and topped simply with fresh whipped cream. Just the smell of it baking makes you warm and tummy all over.

This recipe calls for a super moist cake that is spiced with ginger, nutmeg and cloves, slathered in an egg nog frosting and festooned with crisp gingerbread men pretty enough to hang on the Christmas tree. It's perfect for holiday get-togethers all season long.

Have to pop the shop doors open a bit so the smell of warm spices and rich molasses wafts down the street.

Melissa Murphy is the chef/owner of Sweet Melissa Patisserie (775 Seventh Ave., between First and Second streets in Park Slope, (718) 788-2700, 276 Court St., between Butler and Douglas streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 855-3410). Full menu at www.sweetmelissapatisserie.com.

Spicy Gingerbread Cake with Egg Nog Frosting

Makes one eight-inch layer cake

1 cup butter
1 cup molasses
2 1/3 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
3/4 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon ginger
3/4 teaspoon cinnamon
1 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
1/8 teaspoon cloves
1 cup firmly packed dark brown sugar
2 large eggs
2/3 cup plain yogurt
Zest of 1 orange, finely grated
2/3 cup boiling water

Butter and flour two eight-inch by two-inch cake pans. Position a rack in the center of your oven. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Melt the butter and molasses together. In a large mixing bowl, sift together the flour, baking soda, salt and spices. Set aside. In the bowl of a mixer fitted with the whip attachment, beat the brown sugar and the eggs until thick (no lumps).

Add the melted butter/molasses and beat again until thick.

Add the flour mixture and beat until just barely combined. Scrape down the bowl, add yogurt and orange zest and mix to combine.

Add boiling water, beat for two minutes, scraping the bowl thoroughly halfway through this final beating.

Place in the preheated oven and carefully rotate the pans after 20 minutes.

Bake for an additional 10 minutes, or until a skewer inserted into the center comes out clean. Cool on a rack completely before frosting.

EGG NOG FROSTING
1/4 cup flour
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground nutmeg
1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
1 cup egg nog
2 tablespoons pure maple syrup
1/4 cup dark rum (Goslings or Meyer's is best)
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 pound (four sticks) unsalted butter
2 cups powdered sugar

In a heavy-bottomed saucepan, stir together the flour, salt, nutmeg and cinnamon.

Over medium heat, add the egg nog and maple syrup and whisk briskly to combine.

Continue to stir the mixture continuously with a whisk while cooking (be sure not to let any flour stick to the bottom) until it reaches a thick pudding consistency.

Remove from heat, stir in rum and vanilla. Strain into a bowl and cover flush with plastic wrap to prevent a skin from forming. Set aside to cool to room temperature.

In the bowl of a mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, combine softened butter and powdered sugar on low speed until combined (be careful, or the sugar will fly into your face).

Increase speed to medium-high and beat until fluffy. Scrape down the bowl and add the egg nog mixture, beat to combine.

Set aside at room temperature until you are ready to frost the cake (you may store in the refrigerator for up to a week, but let it reach room temperature before using).

Courtesy of Melissa Murphy, Sweet Melissa Patisserie

Sope dancers to Scotland

If only they can raise \$29,000

By Barry Shifrin
for The Brooklyn Paper

Park Slope's own teenage dance troupe is one high-step closer to strutting its stuff on the world stage.

The 16 dancing teenagers of Dancewave, the Fourth Avenue-based instructional studio, have been selected to perform at the Aberdeen International Youth Festival in Scotland next June — but the group still needs to raise roughly \$29,000 to get them across the pond.

"We applied, and when we got accepted, we thought, 'We'll find some way to do this,'" said Princeton Spicer, 17, the troupe's sole male.

This week, Dancewave just might have found that way. Nick Kotsoris, the owner of Park Slope Health and Fitness, stepped forward with a pledge to match up to \$10,000 in donations.

The group has been receiving financial aid in smaller ways, too.

"We got a small donation from someone we didn't even know," said Sarah Bernbaum, 15, a Rhode Island man who heard about the group's selection to the prestigious dance event and donated \$10.

"He said that his wife was a dancer and she had recently passed away," said Bernbaum. "It was really sweet."

He said he hung our picture in his office.

The kids have been contributing in their own way as well, from donating their babysitting money to hosting a "Holiday Fiesta," where the group performed and sold baked goods.



The Brooklyn Paper • Barry Shifrin

On the rocks: Dance students (from left) Sara Berry, Patrice Alyssa Roth, Princeton Spicer, Brittny Dunbar, and Kelly Rodriguez are hoping to go to Scotland to teach those kiln-wearing yahoos how to get down.

"We're doing whatever it takes," said Patrice Alyssa Roth, 17. "We're really looking forward to the trip."

Dancewave Executive Director Diane Jacobowitz said she's ecstatic about the idea of the kids going to Scotland.

"There'll be theater groups from all over Europe... drum groups from Ghana, painters from Japan," she said. "The

kids all get housed together at the University of Aberdeen.

They'll get to share their culture and learn others' cultures."

As the only American group selected, Dancewave would represent not only Brooklyn, but the entire United States.

To donate, visit www.dancewave.org.

May the joy of Christmas be with you all through the New Year

Vesuvio Restaurant & Pizzeria

CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER
\$32.95 pp

APPETIZER: (Choice of One)
Calamari Fritti, Mozzarella di Casa, Capri-
no Salad, Crab Cakes or Seafood Salad

ENTRÉE: (Choice of One)
Spaghetti White Clam Sauce, Linguine Rio
Mare, Rigatoni Rustica, Salmon, Shrimp
Oreganata or Chicken Vesuvio

DESSERT: (Choice of One)
Italian Cheesecake, Tiramisu or Canoli

KIDS MENU & À LA CARTE MENU
WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE ON
CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S EVE

Tax & Gratuity not included
Reservations Recommended

NEWS YEAR'S EVE DINNER
\$60 pp

Wine, dine & dance into 2010, Thursday,
Dec. 31 at 8 pm. Price includes prix
fixe menu, open bar, live DJ & non-stop
dancing, complimentary champagne toast
& party favors midnight.

APPETIZER: Cold Antipasto
PASTA: (Choice of One) Penne Vodka or
Penna Al Filetto di Pomodoro

ENTRÉE: (Choice of One)
Chicken Vesuvio, Shell Steak, Veal Marsala
or Salmon

DESSERT: Tiramisu

Tax & Gratuity not included
Tickets are on sale now

OPEN NEW YEARS DAY NOON - MIDNIGHT

7305 3RD AVE BKLYN, NY 11209 • 718. 745.0222 • WWW.VESUVIOBAYRIDGE.COM

NEW...

Continued from page 5

ly features a slight peach undertone with excellent mineral.

• Picada y Vino (\$27 Fifth Ave., between Third and Fourth streets in Park Slope, (718) 499-2392).

• New Mexico Grout (\$14.95 at Long's Wines and Liquors). It's dry, it's crisp and it's tasty. This champagne's got all the power of an expensive bottle, with nice steps from fruity and acidic to dry that makes it drinkable for everyone.

Long's 2717 Fifth Ave. between 79th and 80th streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 749-6502.

• Spanish Cava (\$15.75 at The Greene Grape). This one's got a fruity, "orange-peel" taste as employees described, and it's not dry to the bone. If you're looking for sweet (don't worry, we're talking champagne sweet, not Carlo Rossi stay-up-all-night

and-vomit sweet), this is the bottle for you.

The Greene Grape 765 Fulton St. between Portland Avenue and Oxford Street in Fort Greene, (718) 797-9453.

Dinner time

Nothing says New Year's Eve like a big steaming pile of beef. The Fairway Market in Red Hook's got you covered for that do-it-yourself meat mountain at a low price. At \$4.99 a pound (at press time), the whole, trimmed filet mignon is the ultimate beef experience — and the butchers will custom cut it for free.

For best results, don't bother with butchering. Cover the entire loin from tip to tail with salt, pepper and butter and pop the whole roast into a 500-degree oven for about 20 minutes (for a normal-sized tenderloin) — or until a meat thermometer registers 125 degrees.

Fairway Market (480 Van Brunt St. near Reed Street in Red Hook, (718) 694-8688). For info, visit www.fairway-market.com.

Food For Celebration!

The Garden 921 Manhattan Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11222 • 718-389-6448

Appetizer Platters

1. Chicken Wings w/Hot Sauce
2. Swedish Meat Balls w/Cranberries
3. Breaded Broccoli and Cauliflower
4. Mini Knishes

***Medium \$70.00, Large \$80.00**

5. Chicken Cutlet Skewer w/Tahini Sauce
6. Pigs in a Blanket w/Hot Chili Sauce
7. Turkey Meat Balls
8. Chicken Fingers w/Honey Mustard Sauce

***Medium \$80.00, Large \$90.00**

9. Smoked Salmon on Mini Potato Pancakes & Sour Cream Dip
10. Italian Prosciutto w/Honeydew Melon
11. Roast Beef Rolls w/Asparagus and Remoulade Sauce
12. Grilled Orange Glazed Shrimp w/Cilantro Sauce

***Medium \$95.00, Large \$120.00**

13. Crudites w/Three Dips
14. Chips and Dips: Assorted Chips w/Three Dips

Large \$70.00
(*These items may be combined)

Party Platters:
Bavarian Platter, Old Poland Platter, Pate & Brie Platter, Italian Style Platter
Sm. \$80.00, Med. \$120.00, Lrg. \$160.00

Please Come In For a More Detailed Menu.

Buy \$60 or more & get a FREE 100% cotton shopping bag (\$10 value, made in USA) with this coupon (while supplies last; limit one bag per person per purchase per day, expires Dec. 31, 2009)

The Garden 921 Manhattan Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11222 • t: 718-389-6448

HABITAT
www.habitatnyc.org

Being on your co-op or condo board just got a whole lot easier

SUBSCRIBE NOW!
NYC's Only Magazine
For Co-op and Condo Board Directors & Managers

SUBSCRIBE YOUR BOARD:
http://bit.ly/HabitatSubscribe

BOARD SUBSCRIPTION \$65 includes 4 print and digital editions each month, FREE access to Habitat's Online Article Archives

OR CALL: 800-358-9116

CURRY HEAVEN INC.
Organic Indian Food
The Only Organic Indian Food in NYC

FREE DELIVERY
15 blocks N.W.S.E. of the restaurant

Chef with 35 YEARS experience with Indian cooking

CATERING and BIG PARTIES with discount prices

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
Mon-Sat: 1pm-Midnight
Sun: Noon-10pm

718.388.3021
513 Grand Street, Brooklyn

Council OK's Broadway Triangle rezoning plan

By Andy Campbell
The Brooklyn Paper

The City Council strongly backed a plan to encourage residential development in the now mostly commercial "Broadway Triangle" on Monday, but the battle isn't over as a coalition of 40 North Brooklyn community groups announced an expansion of its earlier lawsuit.

The plan's promise of affordable housing — at least 850 of 1,851 apartments would be set aside at below-market rates — outweighed the ugliness that characterized the plan's creation, which featured a no-bid city contract awarded to two politically connected groups allied with the borough's Democratic Party boss.

Even a rezoning supporter, Borough President Markowitz, hinted at the earlier conflicts in a statement issued after the vote.

"I supported this plan because, bottom line, Brooklyn needs more affordable housing built now, and this plan is the most practical way to get it done," he said.

The Council vote didn't surprise the dissenters in the Broadway Triangle Community Coalition, but the group is not going down without a fight. On Tuesday, lawyers filed an amended lawsuit in state Supreme Court against Mayor Bloomberg and the city's Department of Housing Preservation and Development that will be tackled onto the earlier suit filed in September.



Opponents and supporters held dueling rallies at City Hall before the Council's vote on the Broadway Triangle rezoning. These were supporters.

The suit contends that a politically corrupt process cut out dozens of community groups from partaking in developing the triangle's 31 acres of industrial land into a mixed-income community, and that the city acted unethically when it granted development rights to two politically connected groups — the United Jewish Organization of Williamsburg and Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizen Council, both tied to Assemblyman Vito Lopez (D-Bushwick).

In the amended suit, the coalition alleges that the city essentially handed over the triangle's largest portion, 100 Throop Ave., to the UJO. The city provided \$7.6 million in funding for the site's development before the rezoning had even been proposed, according to the lawsuit.

"Not only was this premature commitment inappropriate, but since there was no public notice that the city contemplated rezoning the land... other organizations did not contemplate a request for control," the document reads.

City officials maintain that both groups submitted proper applications. And on Monday, councilmembers agreed.

"This is not an Atlantic Yards project that circumvented [the process]," said Councilman David Yassky (D-Brooklyn Heights). "We're going to have 800 affordable apartments. We had public input."



RESTAURANT/BAR

Serving Lunch and Dinner
Private Parties

Open 7 days • Valet parking • Delivery

10018 Fourth Ave. (at 101 St.) • Bay Ridge
(718) 833-1313

NEW YEAR'S EVE 2010

4th Annual Procrastinators Ball

Celebrate in Dumbo!

Watch LIVE from Times Square on our 135 sq. ft. Jumbo-Tron screens

No cover! No minimum!

FEATURING:

- Live DJ spinning all your favorites
- Champagne toast at midnight
- Hats • Noisemakers
- Balloon drop
- Complimentary late night dessert
- Kitchen open til 2:30am
- Bar open til 4am

Reservations requested but not required

Water Street



Restaurant & Underwater Lounge

66 Water Street in DUMBO

718-625-9352

www.waterstreetrestaurant.com

Wine, champagne & spirits for all your party needs

COME IN AND HAVE A DRINK WITH US!

Tastings are held every Thursday-Saturday from 6-9pm

SEMI ANNUAL RED SALE

Sale ends New Year's Day

*Additional discounts do not apply to sale items.

Special prices on Moët and Veuve Clicquot

SPECIAL SALE

Georges Dubeuf Nouveau for \$6.99

(718) 622.1403 • Mon-Wed 10:30-9
Thurs-Sat 10:30-10 • Sun 1-9

MEI CHI LIQUOR
391 FLATBUSH AVE.
Between Sterling Pl. & Eighth Ave.

Another Yards suit rejected

Court says MTA did not violate state law with deal

By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

A state court has once again rebuffed an effort to throw a wrench in Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards machine,

rejecting a lawsuit that accused the MTA of improperly selling its Vanderbilt rail yard by not seeking new bids after reopening the original 2005 deal with the developer this summer.

The suit, filed by a panoply of elected officials and opposition groups, claimed that the Metropolitan Transportation Authority broke a state law that was passed in the wake of Atlantic Yards to curb abuses by state authorities through stricter transparency and ethics guidelines.

The plaintiffs pointed to the fact that the MTA renegotiated the deal with Ratner this summer, getting just \$20 million up front instead of the \$100 million originally promised. At the time, the transit agency did not seek new bids for its eight-acre train yard at the heart of the proposed area, housing and commercial development.

But state Supreme Court Judge Michael Stallman did not agree with project opponents, ruling last Tuesday that the renegotiated deal did not warrant restarting the bidding process.

"If every change were to be viewed as a new plan so as to trigger anew each mandated review process, no development plan could ever reach final approval — let alone ultimate completion," the ruling read. "The MTA had a rational basis for continuing to use the 2005 appraisal rather than ordering a new one in 2009."

Opponents of the project called the ruling a sham, especially in light of the MTA's just announced "doomsday cuts" in service that would affect everyone who uses public transportation.

"The MTA has no shame," said Daniel Goldstein, a spokesman for Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn, the main Atlantic Yards opposition group. "While giving a sweetheart deal to billionaire developers... its board gives a big lump of coal to school kids, disabled New Yorkers and all transit riders."

The ruling by the New York State Supreme Court is yet another blow to the opposition of Atlantic Yards, which in the last two months has seen Ratner overcome several major hurdles on the way to finally breaking ground on his controversial baseball arena that will house his ailing New Jersey Nets.

In the final week of November, the state's highest court ruled that the Empire State Development Corporation was properly using eminent domain to seize the final holdouts in the Atlantic Yards footprint.

And this week, Ratner secured \$511 million for the project through the sale of tax-exempt bonds that were snatched off the market in merely two hours.

Still, the opposition plans to fight right down to the buzzer. On Sunday, a chair was installed at the beloved Freddy's Bar at Dean Street and Sixth Avenue, which likely faces a wrecking ball in the coming months.

If that day comes, a dedicated crew of barflies has pledged to cuff themselves to the chain.

Ukulele Drop: Show up at 1:45 pm for a four-string take on the Times Square ball drop, followed by a ukulele concert. In front of 321 2nd St. (between Sixth and Seventh avenues) in Greenwood Heights, (646) 257-3747. Free. For info, visit sonukule.com.

FRI, JAN. 1
New Year's Day
ART: "WHO SHOT ROCK & ROLL": Great rock photographs from 1955 to the present. 10 am-5 pm. See Saturday, Dec. 26.

ART: "RECYCLED AND STITCHED ART": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

ART EXHIBITS: See Saturday, Dec. 26.

ART: "MULTIPLES AND EDITIONS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

EXHIBIT: "LAST DAY OF THE MYRTLE AVENUE EL": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

Ukulele Drop: Show up at 1:45 pm for a four-string take on the Times Square ball drop, followed by a ukulele concert. In front of 321 2nd St. (between Sixth and Seventh avenues) in Greenwood Heights, (646) 257-3747. Free. For info, visit sonukule.com.

FRI, JAN. 1
New Year's Day
ART: "WHO SHOT ROCK & ROLL": Great rock photographs from 1955 to the present. 10 am-5 pm. See Saturday, Dec. 26.

ART: "RECYCLED AND STITCHED ART": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

ART EXHIBITS: See Saturday, Dec. 26.

ART: "MULTIPLES AND EDITIONS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

EXHIBIT: "LAST DAY OF THE MYRTLE AVENUE EL": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTERS": See Saturday, Dec. 26.

LIST YOUR EVENT...

To list your event in **Nine Days in Brooklyn**, please give us two weeks notice or more. Send your listing by e-mail: calendar@brooklynpaper.com, or by mail: GO Brooklyn, The Brooklyn Paper, One Metrocenter Center North, Suite 1001, Brooklyn, NY 11201. Listings are free and printed on a space available basis. We regret we cannot take listings over the phone.

